

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A screw press (1) suitable for pressing fibrous material, in particular sugar beet pulp, comprising:

- a pair of adjacent counter-rotating shafts (20, 30) having their axes (X-X, X'-X'), disposed parallel to each other, said shafts (20, 30) each being provided externally with a box-like helical structure (21, 31), each of said helical structure (21, 31) winding in~~the~~ an opposite direction with respect to the helical structure of the other shaft;
- a perforated walled filtering cage (4) enclosing said helical structures (21, 31) as an exact fit;
- a loading hopper (10) for feeding the fibrous material to the press (1);
- a discharge aperture (11) for the exit of the pressed material;
- a collection sump (12) positioned externally to said filtering cage (4) to collect the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material,

characterised in that each of said box-like helical structure structures (21, 31) comprises a helix (22, 32), each of said helixes having a pitch (P) and a helical element (23, 33), said helical element (~~27, 37~~ 23, 33) forming a ~~helical~~ collection interspace (27, 37) in cooperation with the outer surface of the shaft (20, 30) and comprising at least one perforated surface (24, 34), said perforated surface (24, 34) having a length (L) along the axis (X-X, X'-X') of the shaft (20, 30) which at every point is less than the pitch (P) of the helix (22, 32) ~~by an amount sufficient to leave free a creating an open channel adjacent to abutting~~ the helix (22, 32) in which the helix (23, 33) of the adjacent shaft (30, 20) is received.

2. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shaft (20, 30) has a cylindrical outer surface.

3. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shaft (20, 30) has a conical outer surface.

4. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said perforated surface (24, 34) ~~can be~~ is enveloped by a conical surface.

5. (Currently amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) ~~can be~~ is enveloped externally by a cylindrical surface.

6. (Currently amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) ~~can be~~ is enveloped externally by a conical surface.

7. (Previously Presented) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) is formed by a hollow box-like structure communicating with said helical interspace (27, 37) and presents at least one perforated side.

8. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) presents a pitch decreasing in ~~the~~ a direction of advancement of the material during pressing.